

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, September 27th, 2010 with Commissioners, Tom Barnes, Marvin Cole, Ken Masters, Jodi Harr, Deputy Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance. Deborah Adams, Auditor, was unable to attend.

Commissioner Tom Barnes called the meeting to order, Marvin Cole made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 13th meeting as presented. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMA

Rob Puckett, Deputy EMA Director, appeared before the commissioners to update them on ongoing grants. He presented a letter from Joseph Wainscott, Jr. of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. It explains the assessment period to be used to determine the 2012 salary reimbursement amounts.

Puckett informed the commissioners that tonight there will be an After Action Review of the field fire near Williamstown on Thursday. A full report will be released after this meeting.

OPEN BURNING

Commissioner Barnes reported a formal complaint he has received regarding persons having an open bomb fire on Amphitheater Road after the Open Burning Ordinance was issued. The Volunteer Fire Department for that area was called to put the fire out. After discussion of the situation, Commissioner Masters made a motion to amend Ordinance 2010-5 to include a statement that the fines collected due to the open burning ordinance will be given to the volunteer groups who responded to put the fire out. Commissioner Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Barnes also asked for clarification as to if gas grills are included. The ordinance covers "open fires". He continued by saying the ban will be lifted as soon as it is determined that we have enough rain and that the drought conditions are no longer a threat.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 2010 - 5

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPEN BURNING OF ANY MATERIALS WITHIN RUSH COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, according to information released on September 9, 2010, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Rush County, Indiana, is in an area classified as "Abnormally Dry"; and

WHEREAS, due to the drought conditions, the risk of fires starting accidentally, spreading, and burning out of control exists; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency exists due to the abnormally dry and drought conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rush, Indiana, as follows:

1. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to Ind.Code 36-1-3-1.
2. Due to the emergency nature of this Ordinance, this Ordinance is adopted and effective under the provisions of IC 36-2-4-8. It shall be effective immediately upon adoption.
3. Any open burning of a voluntary nature, any discarding of cigarettes in a place other than a place intended for the discarding of cigarettes, any recreational fires, any burning of trash or debris outside, or any activity of a similar nature is hereby prohibited within the boundaries of Rush County until further notice.
4. Any person found to be in violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to the penalty imposed for violating a Class C infraction, as set forth in IC 34-28-5-4, and shall be subject to a minimum fine of \$250.00, plus court costs.
5. This Ordinance shall be enforced pursuant to the provisions of IC 34-28-8.
6. Any fines collected under this Ordinance shall be paid to the Volunteer Fire Department that responds to the fire and uses its equipment to put out the fire. If more than one Volunteer Fire Department responds to the fire, the fines collected for that particular event shall be pro rated among the different Volunteer Fire Departments that responded to that particular fire on an equal basis.
7. The Board of Commissioners shall reevaluate the need for this Ordinance every seven (7) days, after consultation with the President of the Fire Chiefs' Association, the Coordinator of the County Department of Homeland Security, and the Rush County Sheriff.
8. This Ordinance shall remain in effect until its repeal.

Adopted this 13th day of September, 2010.

/s/ Thomas G. Barnes
Thomas H. Barnes

/s/ Marvin L. Cole
Marvin L. Cole

/s/ Ken Masters
Ken Masters

ATTEST: /s/ C. Jodi Harr
C. Jodi Harr, Deputy Auditor Rush County

ANDERSON TWP VOLUNTER FIRE DEPT

Becky Puckett representing the Anderson Twp Volunteer Fire Dept EMS asked when they could expect payment for reimbursement of equipment purchased with OCRA money designated for volunteer services. The additional appropriation has been sent to the state for their approval. Once that is received a claim will be presented to the commissioners for payment.

TREASURER

Mary Ann Beard, Rush County Treasurer, asked the commissioners to sign a contract with GUTS Software to provide software to do the daily cash book in the treasurer office. County Attorney, Leigh Morning, had a couple of issues with the contract. Beard will contact GUTS and bring the contract to the next commissioner meeting.

LIBERTY NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

Mike Biffle from Liberty National Life Insurance presented information regarding term life insurance for employees that has been approved by the State of Indiana. Commissioner Barnes accepted the information and explained the county's procedure in meeting insurance needs for employees. The Health Insurance Committee will meet again in April and will review the information. They will contact Mr. Biffle if they are interested in the product.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton presented the Final Bridge Plans for Moscow Covered Bridge. Commissioner Cole made the motion to sign the final bridge specifications. Commissioner Masters seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Masters made the motion to consider the use of county owned equipment and manpower paid for out of the county highway fund as an in kind donation to the Moscow Covered Bridge Fund. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Jerry Sitton, representing the Health Insurance Committee, stated the employee handbook for county health insurance is about ready. He presented them with signature page of the booklet authorizing the Rush County Employees Employee Medical Benefit Plan. Commissioner Cole made a motion and Commissioner Masters seconded the motion, to sign the signature page. Motion carried.

The Health Insurance Committee met with Brad Smith of Rush Memorial Hospital regarding employee incentives to use Rush Memorial Hospital and their physicians for medical care. The following agreements have been made:

- the co-insurance if an employee uses Rush Memorial Hospital will be 90% instead of 80%
- Decrease the primary and specialist doctor office visit co-pay to \$20 for visits to a physician at a Rush County office location.

- RMH will provide wellness activities to employees enrolled in the county health insurance program

These changes will be effective January 1, 2011.

Commissioner Masters made the motion and Commissioner Cole the second, to sign a letter to Brad Smith agreeing to these changes. Motion carried. A copy of this letter is to be distributed to county employees who participate in the county health insurance plan with their pay stubs on October 1, 2010.

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported forty-one (41) inmates incarcerated in the Rush County jail. Seven (7) inmates are sentenced inmates. Twelve of the inmates are women.

He stated that the Code Red Notification Program was utilized notifying participating citizens of the Open Burn Ordinance.

Sherwood also reported that Animal Control Officer Mike Jessup is moving to a full time position of Jail Officer. He is in the process of finding a replacement for Jessup as the Animal Control Officer.

AUDITOR

Jodi Harr, Deputy Auditor, received approval on payroll claims on a motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Masters. Motion carried.

Bi-Weekly claims were approved on a motion by Commissioner Masters. Seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Discussion was held regarding allowing Commissioner Barnes to act on behalf of the commissioners for repairs to the courthouse. Commissioner Masters made a motion to allow Commissioner Barnes to act on behalf of the commissioners for repairs that are less than \$3,000.00. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion carried.

TURN KEY

Two quotes have been received from Turn Key to repair air units in the Assessor and Auditor Offices. The estimate for the Assessor Office is \$1,460.00. The estimate for the Auditor Office is \$2,720.00. Commissioner Barnes signed the quotes and instructed the Auditor to notify Turn Key to start the work.

E911 SERVICES

Leigh Morning, County Attorney, presented a Letter of Agency from INdigital. This is not a contract. It allows INdigital to work with Frontier to initialize their services. Commissioner Cole made the motion to sign the letter and Commissioner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MISC.

- Reviewed August EMS reports from Anderson Twp Vol Fire Dept and Raleigh Vol Fire Dept
- Reviewed the August Treasurer's Report
- Approved elected officials surety bonds. Commissioner Cole made the motion to sign the bonds. Commissioner Masters seconded. Motion carried. Bonds were submitted for the following office holders:
 1. Mary Ann Beard, Rush County Treasurer
 2. Deborah Richardson, Rush County Clerk
 3. Paul Barada, Jr, Rush County Prosecutor
 4. Sally Niedenthal, Rush County Recorder
 5. Joann Herbert, Rush County Assessor
 6. Jeffrey Sherwood, Rush County Sheriff
 7. Deborah C. Adams, Rush County Auditor
 8. Ann C. Moster, Rush County Coroner

Motion to adjourn was received from Ken Masters. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Barnes, Chairman

Marvin Cole

Ken Masters

ATTEST:

C. Jodi Harr, Deputy Auditor